IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 5, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In one aspect, the present invention provides novel isolated and purified DNA sequences, hereinafter referred to as Sensitive to Apoptosis Genes ("SAG"), encoding SAG proteins. In one embodiment, the invention comprises DNA sequences substantially similar to those shown in SEQ ID 1 (mouse SAG) or SEQ ID ~~2~~3 (human SAG), respectively. As defined herein, "substantially similar" includes identical sequences, as well as deletions, substitutions or additions to a DNA, RNA or protein sequence that maintain the function of the protein product and possess similar zinc-binding motifs. Preferably, the DNA sequences according to the invention consist essentially of the DNA sequence of SEQ ID 1 or SEQ ID 3, or are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID 11, SEQ ID 13, SEQ ID 21, SEQ ID 23, SEQ ID 25, SEQ ID 27, SEQ ID 29, SEQ ID 31, SEQ ID 33, SEQ ID 35, SEQ ID 37, SEQ ID 39, SEQ ID 41, SEQ ID 43, SEQ ID 45, SEQ ID 47 and SEQ ID 49. These novel purified and isolated DNA sequences can be used to direct expression of the SAG protein and for mutational analysis of SAG protein function.

D1

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 32, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

SAG protein contains 12 cysteine residues and forms disulfide bonds both intermolecularly and intramolecularly after exposure to hydrogen peroxide. SAG protein also binds to heme, which can modulate oxidants by oxidation/reduction of Fe(++). This oxidative buffering activity ~~may~~ can qualify SAG as an oxygen radical scavenger.

D2